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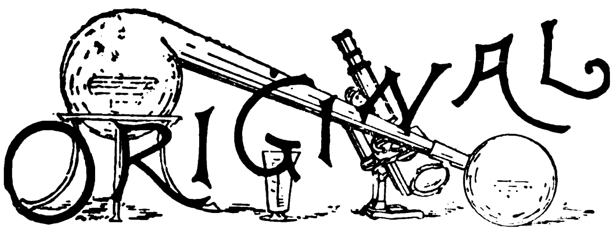
JOHANN MICHAEL MAISCH.

Next to the kindly offices which personal friends alone can render at the bedsides of their dear ones when the Death Angel has called them, comes the tribute of regret from the outside world when it learns of the common bereavement. Most sincerely do we extend to the friends of the late Professor Johann Michael Maisch our sympathy for their loss, and equally sincerely do we extend to them the expression of the regret which the whole scientific world feels in the loss of so worthy a co-laborer.

That the scientific pharmacy of America has lost one of its most worthy fathers, no one will for a moment deny. In our midst to-day are men who have come from the same country (Germany), who spend their lives with us, and who never seem to get thoroughly identified with the country of their adoption; they are never tired of praising old-country ways and institutions; nor do they ever lose an opportunity of belittling American effort, even when aimed in the most commendable direction. Of Prof. Maisch, however, this cannot be said; all his energies were given—dedicated, indeed—to the enrichment of his adopted home, and whatever advance has been made in American pharmacy and pharmaceutical legislation has been effected very largely by the leaven of his individuality. He had "honors thrust upon him" from every part of the globe, in recognition of the faithful and painstaking labor which was everywhere characteristic of his writings; and even when he was upon what was to prove his death-bed, the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Mr. Carteighe, brought to the Chicago meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association the Hanbury gold medal for presentation to him. His death took place on



PRACTICAL PHARMACY.

CHANGE THE LAWS.[*]

BY W. BODEMANN.

A few years since, I brought an ounce of Antipyrin from Germany. Subsequently, during correspondence with the "sole lessee" (!) of the drug, I was dumbfounded by the information that I had no right to either sell, give away, or prescribe for myself the antipyrin I had brought from abroad.

After such information I naturally looked up the law on the subject, and became speedily satisfied that according to statutory declaration I could be held legally responsible if I dared to ingest a portion of antipyrin that had not paid a royalty to the "sole lessee" of this drug for the United States.

The laws of this country are such that the name, the process of manufacture, and the finished product are covered by patent enactment.

What is more remarkable, the founder, or discoverer, of antipyrin could not obtain such three-fold protection in any of the effete monarchies of Europe—he had come to the "land of liberty," "the land of the free and the brave," where the bold, grasping monopolists are at liberty to hold up the peaceful wanderer and cry, "Give me your purse—pay me a dollar for what the benighted subjects of darkest Europe pay only twenty cents for."

Take Sulphonal, for instance: there are four foreign manufacturers who, knowing the glorious possibilities of trademarking and patenting in the United States, came here, obtained protection on the name, product, and process of manufacture, formed a company, selected a president and agent, and then proceeded to create a demand. Note that in Germany the drug sells at twenty-five cents an ounce, and that the duty when brought to the United States is only 25 per cent.; but the added protection enables these houses to realize $1.35 per ounce.

Just so, Phenacetin costs 33⅓ cents in Germany—$1 here; antipyrin, 73 cents—but sells here for $1.40.

It occurs to me that here is an inviting field of work for the American Pharmaceutical Association. By persistent effort and unity of purpose, surely this commerce can be regulated by statutory enactment—but by-laws, resolutions, and debates will never have any effect. As matters now stand, the trademark octopus constitutes absolutely a bold, legalized robbery—a form of swindling that exceeds even the crime of the foot-pad and road-agent. Surely the American Pharmaceutical Association in an effort to right this wrong could depend upon solid support from the people.

I believe foreign countries draw the line on articles used in the healing art, and refuse patents to those that constitute absolute remedies—at least this is true of France.

One is fairly bewildered at the mass of fraud, humbuggery, and charlatanism that has been developed in the trademark laws—*nomina odiosa sunt!*

It is not necessary to specify singly each article, except to illustrate the general argument, but if Listerine, Bromidia, Succus Alterans, and other of the ilk, are in consonance with their published formula, then any honest pharmacist could furnish such at half the price demanded. But if the compounds resulting from such formulæ are not like the trademarked articles, either the formula must be wrong, or the proprietor does not manufacture from the formula as published.

Look over the field; the number of trademarked preparations is simply legion. Is it not astounding? The pharmacist is bound hand and foot—fairly tied down. He is obliged to keep the doubly and trebly protected articles, while he could better satisfy the public and obtain much better returns to himself if he were at liberty to apply his own skill.

The stupidity of the great bulk of alleged physicians is met half-way by the cupidity of the shrewd charlatans: thus it has become a notorious fact that any fraud can be "made to pay." Any irresponsible concocter will find experimenting physicians ready to employ (if properly advertised), and then the thing is at once a success; but first all honorable competition must be at once barred out by the monster "Trade Mark."

There are no legal enactments or series of enactments that furnish more glaring impositions than those pertaining to that same trademark. It is a notorious fact that even among the so-called reputable physicians the Keeley Gold Cure met with its most credulous admirers; even Brown-Séquard challenges the gullibility of the medical public by offering *elixirs ad longam vitam*, made up of nothing but nuts and gall—more gall than nuts, apparently. It makes no difference how high the source; the higher the apparent authority, the greater the charlatanry, and we have all the more reason to fervently pray to be relieved from our "eminent" or so-called "eminent" physicians, and that they shall keep their fingers out of the nostrum business; for anything and everything will find believers, and it is an everlasting disgrace to the medical education of America that trademarks find such general defense and adherence.

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[*] **Read before the Legislative Section of the A. P. A. Convention at Chicago, August, 1893.**

I have no hesitation in declaring that any physician who prescribes a remedy with the composition of which he is not familiar, is *per se* a fraud and impostor. Should a regular physician employ one of the out-and-out patent nostrums, even the public would call him a swindler or an ignoramus. Look over the prescription file of any pharmacist, and how many prescriptions will be found that call for trademarked and secret remedies, fakes, and frauds! Unfortunately, the majority are of this class.

I really believe if an "eminent" impostor should promulgate a story of fifteen years' research, and the employment of at least three living pupils of Liebig and a couple of direct lineal descendants of Brezelius and Scheele in his laboratory, that he would find men willing to prescribe even something like this:

> **HAMMONDINE.**
>
> **Hammondine will produce that peculiar character of brain essential to propagate the faculty of founding a new town, more prosperous than Hammond, Indiana. It is made by macerating the offal of the blood-and-button factories at Hammond for thirteen years, and then redistilling the finished product in the most improved slaughter-house of the nineteenth century.**

Now let the inventor claim that the United States Army surgeons have experimented with this remedy on the plains of the Wild West; let some medical journal dare dispute the value of the remedy so as to open the path for argument in several journals, then the nostrum will at once be sold in quantities sufficient to satisfy the cravings of the would-be founders of the new factory, and speedily enable the great inventor to retire with a fortune before the falsity of the trick is found out.

One may laugh at such exaggerations, but if one-hundredth part of the attention had been paid to the manipulation of the trademark and patent laws that has been to the cutting and maintaining of prices, this rodent ulcer upon the body politic would not have absorbed all the best life-blood of the pharmaceutical profession, and besides usurped the greater portion of the body of materia medica.

I suggest that the A. P. A. clasp hands with the International Pharmaceutical Congress, and endeavor to form a congress that will return to the consideration of common sense and old-fashioned honesty and advocate the abrogation of the objectionable features of our present patent and trademark laws.

SULPHURIC ACID.

BY THOMAS WARWICK.

In the manufacture of soda-water, the use of some acid is necessary for freeing the carbonic acid gas from the base with which it is united. Three acids have been used at different times for this purpose, namely: sulphuric, hydrochloric, and tartaric acids. The tartaric acid, owing to its expensiveness, is, of course, only used in cases where the soda-water is manufactured on a small scale, as, for instance, in what are known as "family machines" or seltzogenes. Aside from its expense, however, this acid has another great disadvantage, namely, that the product of its union with bicarbonate of soda is a tartrate of soda possessing purgative properties, and no satisfactory means have yet been devised for eliminating this tartrate of soda from the finished product. Hence, under existing circumstances, these family machines can scarcely be recommended.

Hydrochloric acid (popularly known as muriatic acid) also possesses great disadvantages for soda-water purposes. Its advantages are that the chloride of calcium formed by its action on carbonate of lime is readily soluble in water, so that but little agitation is required. Moreover, the residue formed—the chloride of calcium already mentioned—can be readily sold for various purposes, and hence this acid is on the whole cheaper to use than sulphuric acid. Its disadvantages, however, are so great as to entirely preclude its use. Not only does it give forth chloroformic vapors exceedingly bad for the health, but it forms with lead, tin, iron, and copper injurious compounds which are often highly poisonous. It also gives the carbonic acid gas a taste and odor which no purification can completely remove, and this of itself would be sufficient to condemn its use for soda-water purposes. Sulphuric acid is therefore the acid best adapted for making sparkling beverages, and even when this is employed some care is necessary to obtain a good quality of acid and to prevent the formation of foreign gases in the generator.

Sulphuric acid is the strongest and most important of all the acids. The amount used yearly in the various manufactures is almost incredible, and there is scarcely a branch of industry in which this acid does not play an important rôle, from the manufacture of soap, paper, and glass to the production of parlor matches and anilin dyes. Aside from its cheapness and strength, sulphuric acid possesses another valuable property in the fact that it is dibasic, that is to say, it can form two different salts with the same metal, in one of which there is relatively twice as much of the metallic element as in the other. Thus a molecule of sulphuric acid united with one of caustic potash (KOH) produces an entirely different salt than when united with two molecules of the caustic potash.

Sulphuric acid (popularly known as oil of vitriol from its oily and glassy appearance) appears under several distinct forms, usually depending upon the amount of water which it contains. Thus the anhydrous sulphuric acid contains no water whatever, and consequently becomes a solid, in which state it can be handled with impunity, but upon the addition of water all its latent properties at once become manifest again, thus rendering it exceedingly dangerous.

When one molecule of water is added to one of an-

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